

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1383
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3332

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY
BRUSSELS FOR MOOSE
FROM LOW

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: CEASEFIRE PROGRAM

1. GRAHAM AND LOW WERE BRIEFED BY THE SECURITY FORCES
ON THEIR CEASEFIRE PROGRAM. IT HAD BEEN AGREED PREVIOUSLY
THAT NO PUBLICITY WOULD BE GIVEN TO THE BRIEFING.

2. THE PROGRAM IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE SECURITY
FORCES--LARGELY SPECIAL BRANCH--IN CLOSE COORDINATION
WITH THE TWO AFRICAN NATIONALIST PARTIES, THE UANC AND
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ZANU/SITHOLE. IT IS BASED ON A PLAN APPROVED BY THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN LATE APRIL AND INITIATED ABOUT MAY 1.

3. PARTY OFFICIALS, WHETHER UANC OR ZANU/SITHOLE,
MAKE INITIAL CONTACT WITH GUERRILLA LEADERS AND BRING
THEM INTO SALISBURY FOR TALKS WITH THE SPECIAL BRANCH.
THESE HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT AT THE HOME OF SITHOLE OR

MUZOREWA OR ONE OF THE MINISTERS.
IN THE CASE OF THE UANCE, THE CHURCH IS BEING USED
EXTENSIVELY AND MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD AT CHURCH
LOCATIONS. USUALLY THE FIRST CONTACTS ARE MADE WITH
"MUJIBAS" OR EMISSARIES. THEY THEMSELVES ARE NOT
GUERRILLAS BUT THEY DELIVER MONEY AND MESSAGES TO THE LOWEST,
OR SECTION, LEVEL (10 MEN). SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS
BELIEVE THAT IT WOULD TAKE TOO LONG TO SHOW RESULTS AT
THIS LEVEL AND ARE INSISTING THAT THE TWO PARTIES AIM
AT AT LEAST THE DETACHMENT LEVEL (4 SECTIONS OR 40 MEN)
OR PROVINCIAL LEVEL. SO FAR, MOST CONTACT APPEARS TO
HAVE BEEN ON THE SECTION LEVEL. SOME LEADS HAVE BEEN
DEVELOPED TO HIGHER LEVELS BUT NO REAL BREAK THROUGH'S
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MADE.

4. ONCE CONTACT IS MADE THEN THE GROUP DESIGNATES AN
AREA WHERE, IN RETURN FOR SUPPLIES OF FOOD, CLOTHING,
PERHAPS MONEY, IT AGREES NOT TO CARRY OUT FURTHER ATTACKS.
EVENTUALLY THE GROUP SWITCHES LOYALTY AND SOMETIME BEFORE
THE ELECTION, THE INTENTION WOULD BE TO SEND IT BACK TO
ITS HOME AREA WHERE IT WOULD HELP DEFEND THE ELECTION
PROCESS AGAINST ZANU/MUGABE. IN THE MEANTIME IT IS
HOPED THAT THESE GROUPS WILL BECOME MORE MILITANT IN
FIGHTING ZANU/MUGABE.

5. GROUPS OF ABOUT ONE HUNDRED MEN, IN ONE CASE, AND
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150 IN ANOTHER, HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN ZIPRA TERRITORY, WHERE
THEY ARE BEING SUPPLIED AND EQUIPPED IN AN EFFORT TO
STABILIZE THE AREA. THEN, AS THE SECURITY OFFICERS PUT IT,
THEY ARE ANXIOUS TO HAVE A GO AT ZIPRA".

6. WHILE THE CONTACT CONTINUES TO BE THROUGHT THE INTERNAL
POLITICAL PARTIES WHO ARE IN THEORY RESPONSIBLE FOR RAISING
THE FUNDS TO SUPPLY THE GROUPS, SECURITY OFFICERS ADMITTED
THAT 75 PERCENT OF THE RESOURCES FOR THE PROGRAM CAME FROM
THE GOVERNMENT.

7. THE PROGRAM IS RECEIVING HELP FROM WHITE FARMERS, WHO,
IN SOME CASES, HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH THE GUERRILLAS AND
FROM CATHOLIC, ANGLICAN AND SOME AMERICAN PROTESTANT
MISSIONARIES. THEY HAVE ACTED AS GO-BETWEEN'S AND ENCOURAGED
GUERRILLA COMMANDERS TO COOPERATE WITH THE PROGRAM. RECENT
MURDERS OF MISSIONARIES, THE SECURITY OFFICERS DECLARED,
TOOK PLACE IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROGRAM IS NOT
OPERATING AND ARE COMPLETELY UNCONNECTED WITH IT.

8. IT IS THE HOPE OF THE SECURITY FORCES THAT THEY CAN
EITHER BRING A CEASEFIRE OR AT LEAST A DE-ESCALATION OF

VIOLENCE BY OCTOBER, SUFFICIENT TO RUN THE ELECTIONS. THIS IS THEIR AIM. THEY BELIEVE WHEN ENOUGH GROUPS IN ANY ONE AREA HAVE DECIDED TO COOPERATE, THE REST WILL COME ALONG. THEREFORE, PROGRESS WILL NECESSARILY BE SLOW IN THE BEGINNING BUT MAY PICK UP LATER.

9. COMMENT: THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS COME TO MIND:

--ALTHOUGH THE SECURITY OFFICERS ARE OPTIMISTIC, THEY READILY ADMIT THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW TO DATE;
--THE ENTIRE EFFORT IS BEING DIRECTED AT THE MASHONA POPULATION IN THE EASTERN PART OF THE COUNTRY, WITH ONLY A TOKEN EFFORT IN MATABELELE LAND IN THE WEST;
--IT IS LIKELY THAT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS AND MONTHS WILL SEE AN INCREASE RATHER THAN A DECREASE IN THE LEVEL
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OF HOSTILITY IF THE PROGRAM HAS ANY SUCCESS. THIS WILL RESULT FROM GROUPS WHO HAVE COME OVER AND ARE TURNING AGAINST THE REGULAR MUGABE FORCES.
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